(c) As per the conditions of allocation, development of a power plant has to be synchronous with development of the linked coal block. Coal production from the captive block shall commence within 36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mine and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls under forest land) in case of UG mine, from the date of allocation. If the captive coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and preparation of geological report.

Coal deposits found in the country

†1791. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that evidences of 99 billion tonnes of coal deposits have been found in the country;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that only 430 million tonnes of coal had been produced in the year 2006-07 which was less than the requirement of the country;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that the gap between the demand and supply of coal at the end of the Eleventh Plan is expected to increase in comparison to the present gap; if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the estimates of Geological Survey of India as on 1.4. 2007, the geological coal resources of the country stand at 257.38 billion tonnes of which 99 billion tonnes of reserves fall in proved category.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During the period 2006-07 the actual production of coal was 430.86 million tonnes as against the projected demand of 474.18 million tonnes and actual coal offtake of 464.5 million tonnes.

(e) Yes, Sir. The gap between the demand and supply of coal in the terminal year 2011-12 of the Eleventh Plan is projected to be 51.10 million tonnes as against the actual gap of 33.64 million tonnes in the terminal year 2006-07 of the Tenth Plan.

Coal wash capacity in India

1792. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal wash capacity in the country at present is only 15 per cent to 20 per cent of the total production;

(b) if not, the details of his capacity in March, 2007;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this capacity is up to 80 per cent in coal export countries of the world;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the details of this capacity in Australia and other Countries; and

(e) the assessment of expenditure on the coal washing on an average at national level in the year 2006-07 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The capacity of the coal washeries in the country in March' 07 has been 130.38 million tonnes of which capacity of coking coal washeries was 27.38 million tonnes and non-coking coal washeries was 103 million tonnes. This forms about 30% of the total coal production in the country in 2006-07.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Coal is not aware of the washing capacity of coal exporting countries including Australia.

(e) The cost of washing at optimal capacity utilisation for non-coking coal would be Rs. 55.50 per ton and 27.19 per ton for coking coal for Coal India Washeries.

Change in Policy for Leasing of Lignite/Coal Blocks

1793. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to change the present policy for leasing of Lignite/ Coal Blocks;

(b) whether Government proposes to deprive the rights of the State Government contained in Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to utilize their mineral resources as per their priorities; and

(c) whether Government would agree to give 75 per cent Production Link Payment (PLP) to State Government if bidding process is applied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved introduction of an amendment in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 providing for introduction of competitive bidding system for allocation of coal and lignite blocks for captive use as the selection process.

(b) No, Sir. The proposed amendment in the Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 will not affect the rights of the State Governments being enjoyed under the statute. It will only change the system of allocation of coal blocks from the existing Screening Committee route to the competitive bidding route. Under the provisions of the Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act 1957, prior approval of the Central Government is necessary before the State Government can grant mining lease in respect of coal, lignite and other minerals included in the First Schedule of the said Act.

(c) As per the proposal considered by the Government, proceeds from competitive bidding of coal blocks will go to the coal bearing States concerned, once the system becomes operational.